



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul E. Helliker, Director
830 K Street ☐ Sacramento, California 95814-3510 ☐ www.cdpr.ca.gov

Winston H. Hickox
*Secretary for
Environmental
Protection*

MEMORANDUM

Gray Davis
Governor

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners WHS 99-01

FROM: John S. Sanders, Ph.D., Chief [Original signed by John S. Sanders]
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4260

DATE: May 13, 1999

SUBJECT: REGULATION CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT
STANDARDIZATION OF CHOLINESTERASE TESTING IN
CALIFORNIA

On April 29, 1999, the Office of Administrative Law approved a regulation regarding standardization of cholinesterase (ChE) testing in California. The regulation establishes a uniform method of ChE analysis and reporting of results for medical monitoring of pesticide exposure. Laboratories approved by the Department of Health Services to perform the ChE tests will have to comply with the regulation. If a laboratory is unable to perform the tests using the standard Ellman method, they will have to perform a comparison study between the method they currently use and the standard Ellman method. Each laboratory must establish a correlation between their method and the standard Ellman method. Once the correlation is established, the laboratories can continue to use their method, but will report the results in a standard manner (the same units) using the correlation derived from the comparison study.

Although the regulation will become effective in 30 days, standardized reporting will not be effective until January 1, 2000. This will allow time for the laboratories to conduct the required comparison studies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos at (916) 324-4204, or e-mail her at mverder@cdpr.ca.gov.

cc: Charles M. Andrews, Chief, Pesticide Enforcement Branch
Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos, Worker Health and Safety Branch

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Daniel J. Merkeley, County Agricultural Commissioner Liaison

